



Annual Performance Report Form

Facility Name: *NORCO CLEANERS, Inc*

Performance Track ID #: *A050003*

Annual Performance Report #: *1*

Reporting Year: *2001*

Due Date: *MAY 1, 2002*

Section A

To the extent possible, EPA will pre-complete items A.1-A.8 for you. Please ensure that the information in A.1-A.8 below is accurate, complete, and up to date. Please supply or revise any information as necessary and then check the box to the left of the item(s) to indicate where changes have been made. Items A.9 and A.10 cannot be pre-completed; please respond as directed in A.9 and A.10 below.

Did you make changes? If so, check box.

☐

Name of your facility:

☐

Name of your parent company:

☐

Facility contact person for the Performance Track program:

Name: Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.

Title:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

☐

Facility's location:

Street Address:

Street Address (cont.):

City/State/Zip Code:

☐

Facility's website address (if any): SHOPCPN.COM/WEBPAGE/DISPLAY.CGI?wid=20189

☐

Number of employees (full-time equivalents) who currently work in the facility: 13

☐

Does your company meet the Small Business Administration definition of a small business for your sector?

☒ Yes

No

☐

North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) Code(s) that are used to classify business at the facility:

812320

In your application and, perhaps, in previous annual performance reports, you described what your facility does or makes. Have there been any (additional) changes to your facility's list of products and/or activities? If so, please list them in the space below.

Yes

☒ No

Please update the list of environmental requirements that apply to your facility. In the space below, indicate any changes that have taken place during this performance period. If you have no changes to report, please write "No changes." "NO CHANGES"

Section B

B.1 Environmental Management System Assessment. Please summarize EMS assessments conducted during the year. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

a. Was an EMS assessment done by an independent third party? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide the type (e.g., ISO 14001 certification), the scope, and the dates (mo/yr) of each assessment.

APRIL 2001 & DEC 2001 FULL AUDIT BY
SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE CONSULTANTS, INC
708 - 331-2340
1003 E. 173RD ST
SOUTH HOLLAND, ILL 60473
SEE!
ATTACHMENT

b. Was an internal or corporate EMS audit conducted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide the scope and the dates (mo/yr) of each audit.

MARCH 2001 OWNERS & MANAGERS REVIEW AUDIT
JUNE 2001 QUARTERLY
SEPT 2001
DEC 2001

c. Was a compliance audit conducted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide the scope and the dates (mo/yr) of each audit, and indicate who conducted the audit(s) (e.g., facility staff, corporate groups, third party).

WEEKLY BASIS, EVERY FRIDAY, INCLUDING WEEKLY
LOG OF EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE
BY FACILITY STAFF

d. (Optional) If you would like to describe any other audits or inspections that were conducted at your facility, please do so here.

1. COOK COUNTY DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT 3-2001 INSPECTION
2. DRYCLEANER ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE TRUST FUND
OF ILLINOIS - AUDIT AUG, 2001
COMPLIANCE ISSUES RELATED TO INSURANCE PROGRAM
3. ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHALL OCT 2001
INSPECTION UST FLEX CONNECTORS

Section B

B.1

e. Briefly summarize corrective actions taken and other improvements made as a result of your EMS assessments and compliance audits.

STARTED TO USE "RECYCLED" POLY TO BAG ORDERS

f. Has your facility corrected all instances of potential non-compliance and EMS non-conformance identified during your audits and other assessments? Yes No ☒ No such instances identified

If no, please explain your plans to correct these instances.

g. When was the last Senior Management review of your EMS completed? 12/2001
mo/yr

Who headed the review?

Name: Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. JOHN SPOMAR JR
ERIC SPOMAR

Title: PRESIDENT

Section B

B.2 ISO 14001 Certification. Is your facility currently certified to ISO 14001? Yes ☒ No

B.3 Environmental Aspects Identification. When did your facility last conduct a systematic identification and/or review of your environmental aspects? 12/2001
molyr

B.4 Progress Toward Achieving Objectives and Targets. In the table below, please provide a narrative summary of progress made toward EMS objectives and targets. You may limit the summary to environmental aspects that are significant and towards which progress has been made during the reporting year. In cases where progress relates specifically to a Performance Track performance commitment, complete the *Environmental Aspect* column, but in the *Progress* column simply refer to the performance commitment tables in Section C, i.e. "See Section C." Attach additional sheets as necessary.

| Environmental Aspect | Progress Made This Year (e.g., quantitative or qualitative improvements, activities conducted) |
|----------------------|---|
| WASTE | "SEE SECTION C" |
| MATERIAL | "SEE SECTION C" |
| WASTE | "SEE SECTION C" |
| ENERGY | "SEE SECTION C" |
| | |
| | |

Section C

Please use the tables on pages 6-9 to summarize your facility's environmental performance against your Performance Track performance commitments. Complete only those boxes related to the baseline, current year, and performance commitment. If any of the boxes have been pre-completed for you, please verify the information. If you find information that is incorrect, cross it out and write in the correct information. Leave blank any columns for future reporting years.

Performance Commitment I

a. Use this table to report data related to your first performance commitment.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Category (see page 16 of the instructions): WASTE | | | | | |
| Aspect (see page 16 of the instructions): | | | | | |
| | Baseline (as stated in your application) | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Performance Commitment (the goal stated in your application) |
| Calendar Year | 2000 | 2001 | | | |
| Actual Quantity (per year) | POUNDS 1,001,360 | POUNDS 990,682.70 | | | (optional) |
| Measurement Units | 42 | 36 | CARTRIDGES USED | | |
| Normalizing Factor* | 1.0 | .9893372 | | | (optional) |
| Basis for your Normalizing Factor* | | | | | |
| Normalized Quantity* (per year) | | CARTRIDGES 36,327 | | | |
| *See pages 17-19 of the instructions for more information | | | | | |

b. Briefly describe how you achieved improvements for this aspect or, if relevant, any circumstances that delayed progress. SEE ATTACHED EXPLANATION

c. Please list any other EPA voluntary programs to which you are also reporting these data (e.g., Energy Star, Project XL). GOVERNOR'S POLLUTION PREVENTION
WASTE MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH CENTER

Section C

C.2 Performance Commitment 2

a. Use this table to report data related to your second performance commitment.

| | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|--------|--------|---|
| Category (see page 16 of the instructions): MATERIAL | | | | | |
| Aspect (see page 16 of the instructions): | | | | | |
| | Baseline (as stated in your application) | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Performance Commitment (the goal stated in your application) |
| Calendar Year | 2000 | 2001 | | | |
| Actual Quantity (per year) | 0 | 121.68 GALLONS | | | (optional) |
| Measurement Units | FILTER BAG CHANGES PER DAY - 1 | | | | |
| Normalizing Factor* | 1.0 | | | | (optional) |
| Basis for your Normalizing Factor* | | | | | |
| Normalized Quantity* (per year) | | | | | |
| *See pages 17-19 of the instructions for more information | | | | | |

b. Briefly describe how you achieved improvements for this aspect or, if relevant, any circumstances that delayed progress. SEE ATTACHED

c. Please list any other EPA voluntary programs to which you are also reporting these data (e.g., Energy Star, Project XL). GOVERNOR'S POLLUTION PREVENTION
WASTE MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH CENTER

Section C

C.3 Performance Commitment 3

a. Use this table to report data related to your third performance commitment.

| | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------|--------|--------|---|
| Category (see page 16 of the instructions): WASTE | | | | | |
| Aspect (see page 16 of the instructions): | | | | | |
| | Baseline (as stated in your application) | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Performance Commitment (the goal stated in your application) |
| Calendar Year | 2000 | 2001 | | | |
| Actual Quantity (per year) | 0 | 576 LBS SAVED | | | (optional) |
| Measurement Units | POLY ROLLS USED / POUNDS OF PLASTIC (1 1/2 ROLLS PER MONTH @ 32 LBS = 576 LBS) | | | | |
| Normalizing Factor* | 1.0 | | | | (optional) |
| Basis for your Normalizing Factor* | | | | | |
| Normalized Quantity* (per year) | | | | | |
| *See pages 17-19 of the instructions for more information | | | | | |

b. Briefly describe how you achieved improvements for this aspect or, if relevant, any circumstances that delayed progress.

SEE ATTACHED

c. Please list any other EPA voluntary programs to which you are also reporting these data (e.g., Energy Star, Project XL).

GOVERNOR'S POLLUTION PREVENTION
WASTE MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH CENTER

Section C

C.4 Performance Commitment 4

a. Use this table to report data related to your fourth performance commitment.

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|---|
| Category (see page 16 of the instructions): ENERGY | | | | | |
| Aspect (see page 16 of the instructions): | | | | | |
| | Baseline (as stated in your application) | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Performance Commitment (the goal stated in your application) |
| Calendar Year | 2000 | 2001 | | | |
| Actual Quantity (per year) | 43,651 THERMS | 38,160.42 THERMS | | | (optional) |
| Measurement Units | THERMS PER POUND | | | | |
| Normalizing Factor* | 1.0 | .9893372 | | | (optional) |
| Basis for your Normalizing Factor* | 1001,360 LBS | 990,622.7 POUNDS POUNDS | | | |
| Normalized Quantity* (per year) | | 38,571.702 THERMS | | | |
| *See pages 17-19 of the instructions for more information | | | | | |

b. Briefly describe how you achieved improvements for this aspect or, if relevant, any circumstances that delayed progress. **SEE ATTACHED**

c. Please list any other EPA voluntary programs to which you are also reporting these data (e.g., Energy Star, Project XL). **GOVERNOR'S POLLUTION PREVENTION
WASTE MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH CENTER**

Section D

D.1

Please briefly summarize the public outreach and reporting activities that your facility has conducted during the year. Feel free, but not obligated, to attach supporting materials (e.g., meeting agendas, public announcements).

1. COUNTER FLYER - RETAIL CUSTOMERS
ILLINOIS DRY CLEANER STAR RECOGNITION PROGRAM
2. FLYER/MAILER TO COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS
STAR PROGRAM & NEPT
3. DOLTON NEWSLETTER - PUBLISHED BY VILLAGE
4. DOLTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWSLETTER
5. CHANGEABLE LETTER SIGN FRONT OF BUILDING

Please indicate which of the following methods your facility plans to use to make its Performance Track Annual Performance Report available to the public. Please check as many as are appropriate.

Website (URL _____)

Open House

☒ Meetings SAFETY MEETINGS AT LOCAL RESTAURANT

☒ Press Releases

☒ Community Advisory Panel

Other _____

Section E

On behalf of NORCO CLEANERS, INC
(name of my facility)

I certify that

- I have read and agree to the terms and conditions specified in the *National Environmental Performance Track Program Guide*. This facility, to the best of my knowledge, continues to meet all program criteria;
- I have personally examined and am familiar with the information contained in this Annual Performance Report form. The information contained in this form is, to the best of my knowledge and based on reasonable inquiry, true, accurate, and complete;
- My facility has an environmental management system (EMS), as defined in the Performance Track EMS criteria, including systems to maintain compliance with all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local environmental requirements in place at the facility, and the EMS will be maintained for the duration of the facility's participation in the program;
- My facility has conducted an objective assessment of its compliance with all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local environmental requirements; and the facility has corrected all identified instances of potential or actual noncompliance; and
- Based on the foregoing compliance assessments and subsequent corrective actions (if any were necessary), my facility is, to the best of my knowledge and based on reasonable inquiry, currently in compliance with applicable federal, state, tribal, and local environmental requirements.

I agree that EPA's decision whether to accept participants into or remove them from the National Environmental Performance Track is wholly discretionary, and I waive any right that may exist under any law to challenge EPA's acceptance or removal decision.

I am the senior manager with responsibility for the facility and am fully authorized to execute this statement on behalf of the corporation or other legal entity whose facility is part of the National Environmental Performance Track program.

Signature/Date John Spomar Jr 4/22/02

Printed Name Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. JOHN SPOMAR JR

Title PRESIDENT

Phone Number/E-mail Address (708) 841-6220 SPOMAR1@aol.com

Facility Name NORCO CLEANERS, INC

Facility Street Address 1320 E DOLTON AVE

Performance Track Identification Number A050003

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 188 hours per respondent annually. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the Director, Collection Strategies Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed form to this address.

page 1

First Aspect: WASTE

The drycleaning operation requires special filtration systems to clean the cleaning solvents that are used to remove soils from garments and other textiles. The filter system has changeable cartridge filters that must be hauled away as a hazardous waste when solvents remain in the cartridge filter upon disposal. The reduction of the amount of cartridges disposed in a hazardous waste site is the goal of this aspect.

Our 1995 and 1996 and 1997 amount of cartridges manifested to a site were 63 cartridges. In 1998 our waste stream began its down turn when we installed a Jupiter PreFilter System. By 1999 and 2000 our waste was reduced to 42 cartridges annually. In 2001 we began a daily monitoring of solvent flow rates to achieve maximum expenditure of the individual filter.

The use of a pre-filter system which is of a "bag" type with a one micron fabric is used to catch particles before they attached themselves to the paper cartridge. Our cartridge waste was reduced in 2001 to the equivalent of 36 cartridges spent. Using the pre-filter system also produces a highly filtered cleaning solvent to a 1 micron level were as the cartridge filter paper is 30 microns. Thus the cleaning performance is of a much higher quality and the garments are cleaner.

The environmental efforts have reduced waste from 63 cartridges to 36 cartridges annually for a 42.8% reduction in waste. Over a three year period we have reduced our waste stream by 27 cartridges per year with an annual cost saving of \$864 for disposal. The cost of the pre-filter equipment was \$2700. The payback period is 3.125 years. In addition to the cost savings and reduced the environmental impact by using the pre-filter system, we have kept our cleaning solvent consistently cleaner and clearer while increasing the life expectancy of the cartridge filter considerably.

Second Aspect: MATERIAL

Our pre-filter system requires the use of one micron bags to catch the lint and soil before attaching to the cartridge filter paper and reduce the flow of solvents. The bags themselves hold solvents that must be drained before removing and replacing with a clean bag. The drained bags contain small amounts of solvents in the fibers. We decided to use an old and obsolete extractor to spin the remaining solvents out of the bags. Following the OSHA guidelines the operator saves nine (9) liters of solvents per week or a total of 468 liters of solvents annually. The saved solvents are then placed back into the system to be reused and filtered. An annual savings of 121.68 gallons or approximately \$242 is achieved while protecting the environment. The additional savings of sales taxes of approximately \$19.36 and the Illinois solvent fees for the Illinois Drycleaner Trust Fund adds an \$42.35 savings for a grand total of \$303.71 per year.

Third Aspect: WASTE

Norco Cleaners, Inc. uses clear plastic poly to bag the clean clothing. Several of our commercial customers receive their deliveries inside their property. Since the clean items would not be exposed to the weather elements, we eliminated the use of the poly bag for those accounts that would agree to reducing waste. The poly rolls we purchase are a 32 pound roll. We consistently save 1.5 rolls of poly per month. The annual savings is

eighteen rolls of poly with the equivalent weight of 576 pounds of waste not going to a landfill. We achieved this level of savings by bulk packaging and not bagging many items. The annual cost savings is 28 rolls at \$26 each equals \$468 plus the additional savings of sales taxes.

Fouth Aspect: ENERGY

The drycleaning operation requires steam to press the garments. Steam is also required to heat the building in the winter months. Another very significant application for steam in the plant operations is the production of steam to provide heat to dry the textiles that have either been drycleaned, wet cleaned, or laundered. Our annual usage of natural gas has been 43,651 therms. We were producing 22.94 pounds per therm or .0435914 therms per pound in the year 2000 prior to our installation of a heat exchanger system. The installation was completed in June of 2001. Our target was set at .038947 therms per pound process or 25.68 pounds per therm. We achieved out goal plus as can be determined by the following facts. In July we observed a significant drop in the use of therms. On an annual calculation for 2001 with the reduced usage starting in July we dropped to 38,160.42 therms in 2001 from the previous year. At December 31, 2001 we were producing 25.96 pounds per therm or .0385193 therms per pound. We have accomplished a 12.579% reduction in the use of therms of natural gas in just six months. The cost of \$1.163 per therm for January 2001 would have made a savings of \$6386 annually; however the price of gas gradually dropped to \$.262 in December making an annual savings at the lowest level of \$1438.64.

The heat exchange unit obtains heated steam that is returned from the drying and pressing equipment via the steam traps. This is called condensate steam that returns to a tank that can be used as hot make-up water to be injected as required back into the boiler. We re-routed the return steam condensate to pre-heat our hot water tank for our laundry and wet cleaning department. After which the cooled water is returned to the return tank to be injected into our 50 horse power boiler.

The cost of the heat exchanger unit was \$3124.75 plus installation of \$1500 for a total of \$4624.75. With a projected minimal annual cost savings of \$2877.28 at the lowest cost per therm invoiced in 2001 the pay back would be 1.607 years.

Management Commitment.

Norco Cleaners, Inc. commitment to pollution prevention projects can be attested to by the environmental programs in which we participate. Norco Cleaners, Inc. is at the highest level of environmental compliance "Gold Star" in the Illinois Drycleaner Star Recognition Program sponsored by the Illinois State Fabricare Association. John Spomar Jr. co-owner of Norco was the first Chairman of the Star Program. Norco was the first drycleaner in the nation to become a Charter Member of the National Environmental

Performance Track (NEPT) with the US EPA. Since then we have participated in the National Environmental Innovations Summit in Washington DC on September 11, 2001 and participated as a speaker at the Motorola Company hosted work shop for the NEPT on March 14, 2002

Monthly meetings with the staff of Norco ensure that our environmental management system is on target. An annual environmental and safety meeting including a dinner with all employees presents where we have been and where we should be going and how to obtain our goals.

Norco has retained the services of Safety and Environmental Compliance Consultants, Inc. as their third party auditor. Monthly updates, conference calls and on site visits enforce the strong pollution prevention goals. Using the information of members in the NEPT program and the STAR programs Norco assimilated pollution prevention activities that are suitable to our situation. Combining the services of the third party auditor and suggested activities of the aforementioned programs, Norco is dedicated to prevention is the solution to pollution.

Employee Participation

Norco Cleaners, Inc is at the top of the list of environmental continuing education units for the Illinois Drycleaner Star Recognition Program. Norco has three individuals on staff that are Certified Environmental Drycleaners, one Certified Professional Drycleaner and one Certified Professional Wetcleaner. These tests are given by a professional testing corporation for the International Fabricare Association.

Our corporate employee handbook with policies and procedures includes our pollution prevention commitment and a statement defining our compliance to the Illinois Clean Indoor Act.

Each month a different employee inspects the fire extinguishers, views the underground storage tank monitor, examines the solvent purchases and monitors the inspection logs as part of their involvement in pollution prevention activities along with the manager in charge of that responsibility.

During our monthly meetings we encourage employees to submit suggestions for environmental solutions as well as other topics. Our annual safety meeting is open to all employees and suggestions are acted upon by first taking volunteers and then assigning committees to develop and implement those suggestions.

The employee incentives for our pollution prevention projects is a certificate of appreciation at the annual meeting and a monetary reward for their dedication to their respective committee and/or individual activity.

Benefits to Workers, Community or Environment

The employees at Norco understand the commitment to environmental issues and worker safety are paramount in the overall goals of the company. Employees at Norco feel a sense of accomplishment with their participation in the corporate pollution prevention and clean indoor act policies. Not only are ground, water, and air issues

addressed but a keen sense of stability and reliability to worker safety are at the forefront of daily routine.

In March of 2001 the NEPT representatives from Washington DC conducted a protocol visit at Norco. The Village of Dolton send two representatives, the village administrator and the economic and planning commissioner, to be present during the site evaluation. The Dolton Chamber of Commerce acknowledged the participation of Norco in a monthly newsletter. The quarterly Village of Dolton newsletter also printed an article on the environmental achievements of Norco Cleaners, Inc.

The community is aware of the participation of Norco in numerous environmental activities. Mayor Shaw of Dolton is also Illinois State Senator Shaw who is a customer of Norco and is weekly subjected to our publicity and dedication to local, community and national environmental policies. Going beyond compliance is the key to our success in the programs we are involved. It is important for consumers to know that we are a neighborhood business that goes beyond compliance with the law.

The Illinois Drycleaner Star Recognition Program builds a partnership between the State of Illinois, the drycleaning industry, and the agencies that regulate the drycleaning industry. We joined forces to better understand our environmental needs and recognize our responsibility to work together for everyone's benefit.

A copy of the Star Recognition flyer developed by John Spomar and the committee along with Norco's own flyer documents are attached.

Relevance to Others

John Spomar Jr. of Norco Cleaners, Inc was a speaker at an environmental seminar in Springfield, Illinois in August of 1999 sponsored by the Illinois State Fabricare Association. John was also a speaker at the Midwest Convention of Drycleaners at the Odeum Convention Center in 2000 speaking on the Christianity and Ecology. In July of 2002 John will be speaking at the Midwest Convention to other industry members on the topic of Eco-Profits including green building designs. Our suppliers and vendors are on notice of our environmental policies. We purchase recycled poly plastic bags and return containers to vendors that accept their empty containers for reuse.

We are a small business in one location. Our pollution prevention activities are applied in all areas of our organization from the front sales office to the back loading dock. Worker safety is of utmost importance.

Norco Cleaners, Inc was the first drycleaner in the NEPT. With influence from Norco another drycleaner has also been accepted into the US EPA program during the second application period. John Spomar Jr was one of two featured speakers at a workshop on March 14, 2002 for prospective applicants into the Performance Track. Some forty five companies were at the seminar considering application into the program. See attached agenda from the latest workshop.

John Spomar Jr. is President of the South Suburban Fabricare Association. Along with other officers, ten monthly meetings from September of 2001 to June of 2002 have

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been somehow related to either worker safety, building safety and environmental compliance. A copy of one of the association invitations to the Rosewood Restaurant is attached.

Norco Cleaners, Inc has taken the lead in beginning the production of a Cable Television video. It will be a generic description of the members of the South Suburban Fabricare Association's new Drycleaner Environmental Network. It will be modeled after the NEPT program with one or more aspects of pollution prevention and a mandatory annual third party audit as part of the requirements of participation. This new program will be unveiled at the May 4, 2002 Park Forest Earth Day Celebration. The South Suburban Fabricare Association will also present this new pollution prevention program at the Midwest Drycleaner Convention July 27th & 28th 2002 at the Odeum Convention Center in Villa Park, Illinois.